

ego



ANTO SKENE

It's Saturday night and that white guy on stage is Anto Skene. He does the air guitar well and Transvision Vamp even better. The karaoke world would be hard-pressed to hear a more animated rendition of the classic 'I want your love.' Then again, animating life is what Anto does best. Whether directing, producing or supporting artists at live shows across Australia, Anto is pouring depth into the skill of VJ-ing, amusing audiences with his often candid, always piss-taking, projection shows.

The life and times of Anto 'did anyone see my pants?' Skene began on a sugarcane farm, 30km south of Cairns. There, the Skene brothers made their own fun, creating bombs out of LPG and balloons, attaching 22 calibre bullets to sparklers, covering themselves in fake blood and crying wolf to sympathetic passers-by. When the boys were shut indoors, Anto's brother Rohan created Indiana Jones-inspired scripts, and soon the legend of 'Chuck McCluskey and the Temple of Naughtiness' was recorded onto an old tape deck. Anto was just ten when his dad bought home an early model Sharp Video8. Within a fortnight, he was appointed chief camera operator. His love for film and TV grew throughout high school, where he produced a number of short films. His love for film continued long after his school days, incorporating everything from Hollywood blockbusters to dogma, early film noir and investigative documentaries.

The medium of music videos, however, fit especially well with this artist. 'My thought processes and inspiration have always worked within a radio friendly three and a half minutes', he explains. Rather than labouring over something symphonic, Anto thrives on the staccato of deadlines, weaving his skill to sharp, punchy time frames. This ability has seen him partner with artists such as TZU, Muph and Plutonic, Jake Savona and Diatrix, and is about to begin work for Music vs Psychics. Under the moniker 'Bulb', Anto and his friend Asmund Heimark also work at a number of live gigs. They have supported Hexstatic at Revolver, created live visuals for RJD2 and the Detroit Grand Pubahs, and this year the boys vj-ed at Big Day Out for artists such as Hilltop Hoods, Electrocute and Curse vs Dialect.

Anto is also collaborating with the Ghetto Fabulous Show - Melbourne's most bootylicious party spectacular. This affinity sees Anto working alongside bling-masters such as Bass Bin Laden, Miss Butt and Tom Tom, as well as dancers and hula-hoop artists.

In between such ventures, Anto really loves breakfast, yoga, dressing up in costumes and dancing around like an idiot with his friends. He also enjoys running his own production house, Dudeio Studios. There, Anto generates everything from music videos to show reels, film and animations for various productions and international festivals. So next time you see that white guy on the karaoke stage, take the time to watch. But please remember girls - he is more than just muscle.

If you would like to perform a karaoke number with Anto or have a peek at his new dvd reel, shoot him some mail: dudeio@myway.com

WORDS
Rachel Williams